

e-concepts

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The Heart

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The Greek word for *heart*, is usually a translation of *kardia*. In Jesus' teaching, it is more like our core desires. In the gospels, the word is never used of the physical organ that pumps blood but metaphorically about a condition of the mind, connecting our personality and our spirituality. *Heart* can mean the center of our being, our hope, feelings, or understanding. But usually, most of the time, Jesus uses the word *heart* to represent our basic desires (Matthew 22:37-39). The best definition, in most contexts in the Gospels, is:

Our heart [*kardia*] is our core desires rooted in our spiritual values.

Jesus taught that our core desires (our heart condition) is within our control. He said, *Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful* (John 14:27). Many problems can be avoided by controlling our heart.

Matthew 15:18-19 *But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.*

Mark 3:5 *After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart.*

Mark 6:52 *for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened.*

Luke 6:45 *The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.*

Luke 24:25 *And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!"*

John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.*

If our heart is our core desires rooted in our spiritual values, controlling our hearts desire is dependent on what treasures we value.

Matthew 6:19-21 *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.***